

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153744 TOSEC 070087

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 1207 ACTION STATE USUN NEW YORK INFO
BONN DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE MAPUTO LAGOS LONDON LUSAKA OTTAWA
PARIS PRETORIA JUNE 16.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1207

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG ANNOUNCEMENT ON REGISTRATION

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 1200, (B) CAPE TOWN 1203,

1. THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S JUNE 16 ANNOUNCEMENT
ON THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (REFTELS) APPEARED
CAREFULLY FRAMED BY THE SAG TO MAKE IT SEEM INNOCUOUS,
FLEXIBLE AND OPEN-ENDED. ON JUNE 15, FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTHAS DESCRIBED IT TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR SCHRICKE AS "GOOD
NEWS" FOR THE FIVE. HE SAID THE A-G WOULD ANNOUNCE POWERS TO
PROCEED "AT A LATER DATE" WITH THE REGISTRATION AND THAT THIS
LANGUAGE HAD BEEN INSERTED AT HIS (BOTHAS) REQUEST. (IN THE
A-G'S STATEMENT, THE ACTUAL LANGUAGE USED WAS "AT
A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY ME.")

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2. INDICATING THAT ACTUAL INITIATION OF REGISTRATION
WOULD BE HELD OFF FOR AN UNSPECIFIED BUT LIMITED
PERIOD, BOTHAS TOLD SCHRICKE THAT THIS WOULD ALLOW
THE FIVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL TIME TO BRING
THEIR NEGOTIATIONS TO A CONCLUSION AND TO EXPLAIN
TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT EMBARKED

ON A UNILATERAL TRACK. BOTHA ASSERTED THAT STEYN'S DECLARATION WOULD SHOW CLEARLY THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. AS REPORTED REFTELS, STEYN IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE PROVISIONS IN THE PROCLAMATION ARE SUCH THAT THEY DO NOT EXCLUDE THE ROLE ENVISIONED FOR THE UNSR.

3. WE HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE A-G'S PROCLAMATION, WHICH IS OVER FORTY PAGES LONG. WITH DRAFT WESTERN PRESS STATEMENT IN MIND (USUN 2305), WE WILL PROVIDE MOST PERTINENT EXTRACTS FOLLOWED BY FULL TEXT ASAP.
E EDMONDSON UNQUOTE NEWSOM

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